

cross of Christianity or the crescent of the Muslim faith. The Israeli government refused.

Since that date, though it has worked in partnership with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the MDA is still denied full membership in the International Federation. This has gone on too long.

This October, the International Federation will hold its 27th meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. This amendment directs the President to work with the signatories of the Geneva Convention and support a resolution at the International Conference to allow for the MDA to become a full member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

DEVELOPMENTS IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today marks the expiration of the term of office of authoritarian Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka under the 1994 Belarusian Constitution. To nobody's surprise, Mr. Lukashenka is not abandoning his office, having extended his term of office until 2001 using the vehicle of an illegitimate 1996 constitutional referendum.

Since Lukashenka was elected five years ago, Belarus has witnessed nothing but backsliding in the realm of human rights and democracy and a deterioration of the economic situation. The Belarusian Government continues to violate its commitments under the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) relating to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. At the root of these violations lies the excessive power usurped by President Lukashenka since his election in 1994, especially following the illegitimate 1996 constitutional referendum, when he disbanded the Supreme Soviet and created a new legislature subordinate to his rule.

Freedoms of expression, association and assembly remain curtailed. The government hampers freedom of the media by tightly controlling the use of national TV and radio. Administrative and economic measures are used to cripple the independent media and NGOs. Political opposition has been targeted for repression, including imprisonment, detention, fines and harassment. The independence of the judiciary has been further eroded, and the President alone controls judicial appointments. Legislative power is decidedly concentrated in the executive branch of government.

The Helsinki Commission, which I Chair, has extensively monitored and reported on the sad situation in Belarus, and has attempted to encourage positive change in that country through direct contacts with Belarusian officials as well as through the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting in St. Petersburg earlier this month overwhelmingly supported a resolution encouraging democratic change in Belarus, including the conduct

of free and fair elections next year. As Chairman of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE PA, I urged my fellow parliamentarians to join me in calling for the release of ex-Prime Minister Mikhail Chygir and the guarantee of free access to the media by opposition groups. In addition, I joined 125 delegates representing 37 of the 54 participating States in signing a statement which offered more harsh criticism of the political situation in Belarus, condemned the use of violence against Supreme Soviet members and representatives of the democratic opposition, and protested their detention.

Within the last few days, there appears to be some glimmer of hope in the gloomy Belarusian predicament. According to a July 17 joint statement by the OSCE PA ad hoc Working Group on Belarus and the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group (AMG) in Belarus: "The Belarusian President states his commitment to the holding of free, fair and recognizable parliamentary elections in Belarus next year, as well as his support for a national dialogue on elections to be held between the government and the opposition." I agree with the Working Group and AMG's emphasis on the importance of "access to electronic media for all participants in the negotiations, and a political climate free of fear and politically motivated prosecution."

Mr. Speaker, while I welcome this statement, I remain guarded, given Mr. Lukashenka's track record. I very much look forward to its implementation by the Belarusian Government, which could be a positive step in reducing Belarus' isolation from the international community and the beginnings of a reversal in the human rights situation in that country.

HONORING THE LANDING OF THE FIRST MAN ON THE MOON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, after rising yesterday to honor the passing of one of America's greatest space hero's, Pete Conrad, I happily return to the floor to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of man landing on the moon.

Last night, I memorialized one of the many heroes involved in the arduous task of sending man from Earth to the moon. Tonight, I would like to recognize all of the men and women that were responsible for one of the single greatest scientific and technological accomplishments in history, man walking on the moon.

President John F. Kennedy challenged the men and women in our nation's space program to accomplish a goal that most believed was unachievable. This goal was the singular focus of a small group of American leaders in space for nearly a decade, a small group that would eventually become international heroes. Heroes, not because they simply went to the moon, but because they set out an impossible goal, dared to dream when they were on the short end of logic, inspired a nation and the

world. These men and women worked feverishly for nearly a decade and committed their lives to the program. Some men even gave the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives chasing this goal.

To every child in America, I hope that you will take the time to learn of the thrilling story of the men and women involved in Apollo 11's ultimate success. It is a story about working to achieve success against long odds. I am proud to have been alive during this great accomplishment and to know the story behind the men and women who dedicated their lives to ensuring the dream of all mankind was achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give one last salute to Captain Pete Conrad and congratulate all of the men and women who helped our nation and persevere against impossible odds, and land a man on the moon.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERALD GREENWALD, CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF UNITED AIRLINES, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I rise to extend congratulations to Jerry Greenwald on the occasion of his retirement as Chairman of United Airlines. He joined United Airlines five years ago. From his takeoff in July 1994 to his landing last week, Jerry Greenwald's has truly been an amazing flight.

Brand new to the aviation industry, Jerry Greenwald led the transition of United Airlines into the largest employee-owned organization in the world. He assumed the helm of a struggling company which was part of an industry burdened by years of mounting financial losses. In an environment when regulations often seemed to make success impossible, he guided the employee-owners of United Airlines to turn the company around. Jerry Greenwald showed that teamwork could be a way of life and not just a slogan. He demonstrated that "labor-management relations" did not have to be a euphemism for mortal combat, but rather a unique means to achieve a range of goals.

By focusing on core business objectives and core customer needs, United Airlines achieved record revenues for four consecutive years, and measurable improvements to delivering on customer preferences for air travel. Jerry Greenwald is investing proceeds into new equipment, technology and customer service initiatives to prepare for the future. During his tenure, Jerry Greenwald has grown United to the equivalent of a whole new airline. And, I'd like to think he's changing how the industry thinks about customer service. The US airline industry is still evolving, but it is clear that Mr. Greenwald has put United on a course to continue to improve and be competitive.

Beyond his focus to make United healthy again, Mr. Greenwald took on an enormous task when he agreed to serve as Chairman of